DIRECTORATE FOR CONSTITUTION
DC : ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROJECTS DIVISION

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Eòin Màrtainn
REDACTED BY RECIPIENT

Our Reference: 202600517396

18 June 2026

Dear Eòin Màrtainn,

Thank you for your letter of 18 May to the Rt. Hon. John Swinney MSP, First Minister of Scotland. I am responding as a member of the team responsible for constitutional policy.

I note the range of points raised in your letter regarding the First Minister's responsibilities.

The First Minister's responsibilities as head of the Scottish Government are set out on the Scottish Government website.

The Scottish Government paper *Renewing Democracy through Independence* outlines the Scottish Government's view that the status of Scotland as a nation has been established through historical developments and is reflected in current realities. Further that Scotland's status as a nation is recognised in the nature of the Scottish Parliament: a body that makes law and provides a democratically elected, national, political voice on all matters concerning Scotland.

In Creating a modern constitution for an independent Scotland paper the Scottish Government also sets out its position that independence would be an opportunity for people in Scotland to create a permanent, modern, written constitution for Scotland. The Scottish Government believes the people are sovereign and that the ultimate source of political power should be people in Scotland themselves, and that those who exercise power should do so on their behalf and with their consent

Your Right to Decide also clearly states the Scottish Government's view that it is for the people of Scotland to decide our country's constitutional future.

Yours sincerely

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